

Severe Weather Awareness Week in Alabama

February 13 - 18, 2005

Sunday, February 13 through Friday, February 18, 2005, has been proclaimed Severe Weather Awareness Week in Alabama by Governor Bob Riley. During this special week, Alabamians are encouraged to learn and/or review the proper safety precautions necessary for protecting your life during severe weather.

Throughout this week, the National Weather Service, Alabama Emergency Management Agency, and American Red Cross chapters in Alabama will be conducting educational activities to help people learn how to prevent injuries and deaths from tornadoes, damaging wind, floods, lightning, and hail. Media outlets are asked to promote this week through articles, stories, and interviews to acquaint people with severe weather dangers and the proper safety precautions necessary for survival.

This booklet details material on severe weather and ways to prepare for it. Tornadoes, damaging wind, floods, lightning, and hail ALL pose great danger to Alabama. Weather-related disasters do occur annually from these phenomena. After nearly every weather disaster, the story is the same; people survive because they know what to do! By taking a few minutes to learn or review severe weather safety rules and procedures, you could save your life or someone else's.

A statewide tornado drill will be conducted by the National Weather Service and Alabama Emergency Management Agency on Wednesday, February 16th. The purpose of this drill is to determine if Alabamians can adequately receive a tornado watch or warning and to practice the actions necessary for protecting their lives and others in the event of a real tornado. We encourage everyone's participation, including media, in the drill to make it a meaningful practice. The drill will be postponed to Friday, February 18th if bad weather should occur on Wednesday the 16th. Alabama's statewide drill is conducted jointly with a few other southeastern states.



National Weather Service employees discuss operations



Governor Bob Riley with
Alabama EMA Director Bruce Baughman
Photo courtesy of the Montgomery Advertiser
(Photographer Julie Bennett)



Photo courtesy of the Birmingham chapter of the American Red Cross

Contents

Page 1 - Overview	Page 10 - Tornadoes Per Year
Page 2 - Messages / Partner Recognition	Page 11 - Flooding Overview
Page 3 - Severe Weather Seasons	Page 12 - Flooding Safety & Products
Page 4 - Preparation	Page 13 - Storm Spotters
Page 5 - Thunderstorms	Page 14 - NOAA Weather Radio
Page 6 - Lightning	Page 15 - Safety After the Storm
Page 7 - Damaging Winds and Hail	Page 16 - 2004 Year in Review
Page 8 - Tornadoes	Page 17 - Contacts
Page 9 - Tornadoes by County	Page 18 - Tornadoes By Month and Hour

Acknowledgements

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Back cover photo is the Palm Sunday, Piedmont tornado taken by Jeff Formby on March 27, 1994.
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